

2007 US Embassy Democracy Commission Grantees

Akhali Taoba (New Generation)

Georgian-American Cultural Center (\$8,000)

This project will create a Georgian American Cultural Center in the town of Samtredia. The center will serve as a bridge between the Georgian and American cultures and will promote trust, friendship, and tolerance among the two nations. The project will show its participants the value of democracy based on the real example of America. The center will specifically target youth, and will undertake a variety of activities and exchanges to promote greater understanding between Georgia and America.

Anti-Violence Network of Georgia

Training for Judges and Prosecutors, Curriculum for the High School of Justice (\$17,716)

The aim of the project is to better ensure the safety of domestic violence victims and enforce the accountability of domestic violence offenders. The project activities are designed to educate judges and prosecutors in Georgia so that they may better respond to domestic violence cases. Through training programs and curriculum development on handling cases of domestic violence, the Anti-Violence Network of Georgia will address the current lack of skilled prosecution and enforcement of domestic violence laws.

Association for Children and Youth in Education

12 Pigeons: Promoting Integration and Peaceful Co-existence in Kvemo Kartli (\$15,840)

This project will publish and distribute the bilingual Azerbaijani and Georgian language edition of the children's magazine *12 Pigeons*. Through stories and fun games, this magazine emphasizes the peaceful coexistence between people of diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds and promotes good citizenship. Targeting children and teenagers in Gardabani, Marneuli, and Bolnisi, this project also arranges cultural exchanges with Tbilisi youth and visits to cultural sites.

Association Broadcasting Company Hereti

"I Am a Citizen of Georgia" (\$11,493)

This grant funds the creation of a local analytical news program in the eastern region of Kakheti, which will be broadcast weekly in the Azerbaijani language. Furthermore, this program will have a special feature broadcasting Georgian language lessons for non-native speakers. Radio Hereti reporters will target the Azeri-populated sub-regions of Sagarejo, Telavi and Lagodekhi, to cover issues important to local residents, involve them in the processes of the country and region's development, and most importantly, fill in the informational void by preparing and broadcasting a series of radio-programs.

Center for Humanitarian Peacekeeping Initiatives

Publication of the newspaper "Abkhazski Meridian" (\$14,700)

The project centers around the monthly publication of the Russian-language newspaper *Abkhazski Meridian* – a newspaper focused on Abkhazia that promotes the values of pluralist liberal democracy. The paper advocates peaceful conflict resolution through enhancing democratic processes in Georgia as well as in Abkhazia. The grant will double the newspaper's circulation and allow the opening of a bureau in Sokhumi.

Center for International Education

Fair Elections – the Means for Democracy (\$10,567)

This project is aimed at developing democracy-building processes in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region particularly with regard to public participation in and awareness of elections. The goal of the activities is to raise citizens' awareness of their electoral rights, increase participation in elections, and to actively involve national minorities in political processes. CIE will empower communities by working with individual voters, providing election information in local languages, and conducting political seminars and issues of local importance.

Charitable Fund for Disabled Children “Orthos” / GLOW

Girls Leading Our World (GLOW) Camp (\$10,365)

The Orthos Foundation will hold Georgia's 5th national girls' leadership camp (GLOW), in which over 80 girls over the course of two weeks will participate. The goal of the camp is to encourage Georgian girls to serve as citizens for change in the future of their country through activities that teach leadership skills, life-planning skills, group responsibility, communication abilities, and solidarity.

George Marshall Alumni Union, Georgia-International and Security Research Center

Introducing NATO Studies (\$9,080)

The purpose of this project is to develop and introduce a one-semester NATO Studies Program into the curriculum of two key Georgian Universities. The NATO Studies course will focus on how the organization functions as a traditional security alliance, as well as the organization's role in advancing democratic institutions and civil society. The course will also discuss implications of possible NATO membership for Georgia. The Center will publish the first Georgian language NATO textbook, to be distributed free of charge in Georgian universities and libraries. Through seminars and round tables, information from the course will be introduced in many higher educational institutions nationwide.

Georgian Association of Women in Business

Information Technology and Business Training in Zemo Svaneti (\$20,240)

This project will help revitalize the economic development of the remote region of Zemo Svaneti through improvement of the tourism infrastructure. Local entrepreneurship will be encouraged through computer/internet training courses and the development of tourism-related websites; business training sessions on small business and tourism management; and publication/distribution of promotional materials advertising tourism opportunities in Svaneti. This project will empower local Svaneti residents to attract visitors directly, earn a greater share of the income generated by visiting tourists, and form a sustainable foundation for development and poverty reduction.

Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies (GFSIS)

Training for Georgian Journalists in National Security and International Relations (\$21,011)

The project will train a new class of twenty journalists (print and electronic media) in issues related to international affairs, economics of transition, globalization and

transformation, nationalism and ethnic conflicts, the role of small states, and question of territory and sovereignty. The training courses will enable the journalists to approach current events in Georgia and internationally with greater sophistication. Better analysis by journalists will yield a better informed public, and a stronger polity.

Grigol Robakidze University

The Federalist and Civic Education in Georgia (\$18,610)

This project represents a contribution to civic education in Georgia through translation and publication of The Federalist Papers (The Federalist) into Georgian. Acquaintance with The Federalist – a great American exposition about the nature of the state – and the principles of American federalism will combat faulty conceptions of federalism and will highlight the potential unifying strengths of such a system. In addition to publication and dissemination of this classic work, this project will commission additional essays from four renowned Georgian political scientists commenting on the relevance of the issues discussed in The Federalist to Georgia's contemporary political landscape.

Guria Agribusiness Center

Engaging Community Members in Active Self-Governance (\$11,910)

This project targets four communities in the Guria region of Georgia in order to establish public advocacy groups in each of them. The four communities selected for this project were chosen because they have the highest levels of unemployment and poverty in the region, are physically remote from the local government centers, and have not previously been targeted by similar programming.

Recent legislative changes in Georgia have removed governing bodies from the communities and placed them in regional centers instead. This activity will mobilize the population in the communities through informational sessions, working meetings, and roundtable events. The aim will be to educate community members on advocacy, enable them to actively participate in the regional decision-making processes, and ensure that local community members' and farmers' interests are accounted for in the budgets and decisions of the regional government body.

Institute of Legal Reforms

Introduction of New Curriculum on Organized Crime and Corruption in Georgia (\$13,160)

This project represents collaboration between the Institute of Legal Reforms and the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia to achieve educational reform in the system of law enforcement agencies. The project will introduce an anticorruption module into the curriculum and training for patrol and criminal police officers at the academy. The publication and training workshops will analyze corruption in Georgia as a social phenomenon and provide recommendations on prevention and combating organized crime and corruption.

Kvemo Kartli Organization of Scout Movement

Eco Conservation Outdoors (ECO) (\$19,777)

The ECO project will educate the next generation of Georgian youth about the environment and will develop young community leaders in conservation. Through community-based ECO clubs and national ECO camps in the summer, the project will

build the confidence and leadership skills of the youth and raise awareness about Georgia's unique environment. This project will establish 25 ECO clubs in Georgia and will conduct 6 summer camps in east, central, and western regions of Georgia.

Lanchkhuti Development Center

Establishing the Lanchkhuti Information Center (\$5,064)

This project is to open the Lanchkhuti Development Center (LDC) for the citizens of the district. The LDC will act as an internet resource and training center for students, teachers, professional associations, local and district government, press media, business, NGOs and active citizens who wish to participate and educate themselves through the free flow of information. The LDC will provide computer training classes, internet classes, and career training to local citizens.

Tbilisi Zoo

Educational Center at the Tbilisi Zoo (\$17,416)

This project will create an educational center at the Tbilisi Zoo, which will promote among youth a responsible, caring, and sensitive understanding towards nature and the broader world around them. Although the educational focus is on ecology and conservation, the purpose of the center is to instill in the younger generation an overall sense of responsibility and ownership for their communities.

The educational center will target school-age children from Tbilisi and various regions of Georgia, as well as children from orphanages, the internally displaced population, and children with disabilities. Through a variety of educational programs and multimedia presentations, students will gain a greater understanding of the natural world, and the important role of citizens in taking responsibility to preserve and protect the world around them.